

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03678 232217Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAB-02 /069 W

-----240240Z 012689 /66

R 232134Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2028

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USCINCSO

PANCANAL

UNCLAS PANAMA 3678

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PN, GT, BY

SUBJECT: CONTINUED REACTION TO DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH GUATEMALA;  
BELIZEAN PM PRICE CONCLUDES UNOFFICIAL VISIT

REF: PANAMA 3645

1. OFFICIAL PANAMANIAN REACTION TO GUATEMALAN RHETORIC  
ACCOMPANYING THE SEVERING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
SURFACED MAY 22. IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT FOREIGN MINISTER  
GONZALEZ-REVILLA PROTESTED THE "INSULTS THAT HAVE BEEN  
DIRECTED AT OUR CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PANAMANIAN  
PEOPLE BY THE HIGHEST GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS". GONZALEZ-  
REVILLA AVERRED THAT THE GOP HAD AVOIDED INFLAMMATORY  
STATEMENTS ON THE GUATEMALAN ACTION TO AVOID EXACERBATING  
THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT THAT  
STATEMENTS BRANDING GENERAL TORRIJOS AS "A SOLDIER WITHOUT  
HONOR", "IMITATOR OF IDI AMIN" AND "TRAITOR" TESTED THE  
LIMITS OF PANAMA'S PATIENCE. HE CONCLUDED WITH A  
CALL FOR ALL AMERICAN COUNTRIES "TO REFLECT SERENLY,  
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DISPASSIONATELY AND RESPECTFULLY ON THE PROBLEM OF  
BELIZE (SINCE) THESE GOVERNMENTS WILL CARRY THE  
FUTURE OF THE BELIZEANS ON THEIR CONSCIENCE".

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS REFLECTED TONE OF OFFICIAL  
GOP COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL), SUPPORTING BELIZE'S RIGHT TO  
SELF-DETERMINATION AND CHARACTERIZING GUATEMALA'S

POSITION AS INCREASINGLY UNPOPULAR IN LATIN AMERICA,  
AND THE THIRD WORLD.

3. PRIME MINISTER PRICE DEPARTED PANAMA FOR CARACAS  
MAY 22 AFTER A TWO-DAY UNOFFICIAL VISIT. PRICE  
MET WITH TORRIJOS ON TWO OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS BELIZE.  
DETAILS OF THE TALKS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED. IN SEVERAL  
INTERVIEWS, PRICE REITERATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR PANAMA'S  
SUPPORT. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO GUARANTEE BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE.  
PRICE SEES THE U.S., MEXICO AND PANAMA AS POSSIBLE  
PARTICIPANTS IN THE FORCE.

4. EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMATION FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT  
COSTA RICA WILL REPRESENT PANAMANIAN INTERESTS IN  
GUATEMALA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL  
REACTION TO AN AP REPORT FROM MEXICO CITY THAT MEXICO  
IS "STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF MEDIATING THE  
DISPUTE BETWEEN PANAMA AND GUATEMALA".

GONZALEZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 PANAMA 3645  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** CONTINUED REACTION TO DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH GUATEMALA; BELIZEAN PM PRICE CONCLUDES UNOFFICIAL VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, GT, BY, (GONZALEZ-REVILLA), (PRICE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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